

Consider Jesus

Look and Look Again children's books - sharpen observation skills. That is what the author of Hebrews is telling us to do in these verses. To look at Jesus again. In our text this morning, there is one command. We are being told to focus on Jesus, to look at him and to look again. To observe in order that we may understand. And we see this command in the two words, "consider Jesus". This is what the entire book of Hebrews is about - to consider Jesus. To consider means to apply your mind carefully - to fix your attention in such a way that the significance of a thing can be learned. Sam Storms puts it this way:

To consider Jesus is not to think about him once in a while. It means to devote all your mental and spiritual energy to thinking and meditating and concentrating on who Jesus is and what he has done. Fixate your thoughts on Christ. Rivet your attention on him alone. Be ruthlessly attentive to him.

This is for the strength and liveliness of your faith! And so why is the faith of so many professing Christians so dull and sleepy? Because they do not sufficiently consider Jesus. Robert Murray McCheyne said:

For every look at self—take ten looks at Christ! Live near to Jesus—and all things will appear little to you in comparison with eternal realities. How many millions of dazzling pearls and gems are at this moment hidden in the deep recesses of the ocean caves. Likewise, unfathomable oceans of grace are in Christ for you. Dive and dive again—you will never come to the bottom of these depths!

This word consider is used in Luke 12:24, 27, Hebrews 10:24. Consider Jesus, or look and look again at him. Isaac Newton, when asked what the key of his understanding was, said, "I keep it before me." How do we plumb the glorious depths of riches that are found in Jesus Christ? By keeping him before us.

Holy Brothers and Partakers of the Heavenly Calling

Notice who this is being written to. We might assume he is talking to those who are not Christians. Consider Jesus for salvation. But look at verse 1:

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling...

Now, I find this both encouraging and shocking. It's encouraging because he is talking to Christians - not a super class of Christians. Those who have repented of their sin and rebellion against God and have trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation - this is speaking to you. **[If you haven't, Jesus is calling you today to]** You are called "holy brothers (and sisters)". Now we need to think about this. "Holy brothers" (thru Christ and growth). Encouraging. Explain "you who share in a heavenly calling" (Philippians 3:14, 20). Deeply encouraging.

But this is also shocking because we might be tempted to think “holy brothers” got this down. They’ve got the Christian life figured out. Do they really need to be reminded to “consider Jesus”? Yes, they do. We do. This is not something that happens on auto-pilot. We forget, we overlook, we neglect, we drift (2:1-4), we wander. And we need to be reminded to consider Jesus.

This text shows us three things to consider about Jesus and then tells us why this is supremely important (life/death). 1) Consider Jesus, the apostle of our confession. 2) Consider Jesus, the high priest of our confession. 3) And consider Jesus, who is infinitely superior to Moses (every hero).

Consider Jesus, the Apostle of our confession

This is the only place in the NT where Jesus is given the title of apostle. The word apostle means to be sent on a mission and when applied to Jesus here, it stresses his faithful accomplishment of the mission on which the Father sent him. Jesus is the apostle of our confession - he was sent. When he was on the earth, he had this self-awareness about himself and his purpose. Jesus repeatedly describes himself as having been sent by the Father - over ten times in the gospel of John alone. Here is just a sampling. Jesus says in John 5:30, *“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.”* In John 6:38 Jesus said, *“I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.”*

And it is not as though Jesus was forced into doing something he really didn’t want to do. Jesus, in John 4:34 says, *“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”* Jesus’ own fulfillment and satisfaction was wrapped up in accomplishing the Father’s purpose in sending him.

I love how this gives us a glimpse of the Trinity. Jesus is the apostle of our confession, sent by the Father. They are in perfect harmony - the Father’s purpose, the Son’s work. Verse 2 says that as the apostle of our confession, Jesus was *“faithful to him who appointed him.”* It is stunning to see the humble, loving obedience of Christ - the apostle of our confession, which led him to the cross to die for sinners. Consider Jesus.

Consider Jesus, the High Priest of our confession

Jesus is given the title high priest twelve times in the book of Hebrews - so this is a huge theme in Hebrews. We are going to go into greater depths on this in the weeks and months to come, so we are going to do a little flyover at 1,000 feet this morning.

High priest needed to do three things: 1) identify w/ people, 2) offer sacrifices for sin, and 3) intercede for the people he represents to God. Jesus is the High Priest of our confession! UNPACK EACH: **He can identify** (sympathy). **He came to offer a one time perfect**, final sacrifice for sin (not many - quote Hebrews 1:3). **And he makes intercession for his people** (quote Hebrews 7:25). Consider Jesus.

Consider Jesus who is infinitely superior to Moses (and every hero)

Moses was a hero to the Jews. And for good reason. Go through examples: spoke with God face to face, received the Law from God, etc. For Jews, Moses was the best. In fact, I think we could say and this text is pushing us to say that Moses was the “apostle and high priest of the Old Testament”. He was the apostle - the sent one. He was sent by God to lead the people of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3). He was sent. And he was the high priest. Now if you know your bibles, you might be thinking, “no Aaron, Moses’ brother was the high priest.” And as far as title is concerned, Aaron was. But Moses, not Aaron was Israel’s true advocate or mediator with God. When fighting the Amalekites (Exodus 17). When God was going to consume the Israelites (Exodus 32). But Jesus is superior to Moses... and not just a little (Jordan/LeBron). Infinitely. Our text says so in no uncertain terms. Jesus is described as superior in three ways and I am going to breeze through these:

1) **Calling** (verses 3-4) - Jesus is the builder of the house (and everything else). Moses is a creature and part of the house. 2) **Person** (verses 5-6a) - Moses was faithful *in the house as a servant*. Jesus is faithful *over the house as a Son*. 3) **Longevity** of ministry (verses 5-6a) - Moses *was faithful* as a servant in the house - but his ministry is OVER. In fact, his ministry pointed forward to Jesus’. However, Jesus *is faithful* over the house as a Son - his ministry continues forever. Consider Jesus.

Why does this matter? Why is it so important that we consider Jesus?

Well, our eternal salvation or lostness depends on it. Is that important enough? Look at the last sentence of our text, and I hope you feel the weight of this. Especially pay attention to the conditional clause.

And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope [some translations add “firm to the end”].

We **are** his house “if” we persevere to the end. Continuance in faith is the surest sign of present salvation. Our present salvation in Christ is proven authentic or fake based on our perseverance. If you don’t persevere to the end, it proves that your present “faith” is fake. But it doesn’t just say “believe to the end.” I want to linger over these words for a few minutes. Because they are serious and beautiful. They are weighty and wonderful.

We are to **hold fast**. This means to hold on, hold tightly, not let go. You know what it’s like to do this right? Kids last week at the lake. Hold fast. To what? Hold fast **our confidence**. Not just confidence in some nebulous spiritual feeling or vague notion about God. But confidence in Christ. Hebrews 4:16 (draw near to the throne of grace with confidence). Hold fast our confidence in Jesus. Confidence in the finished work of Christ produces courage. Uncertainty breeds timidity and self-preservation.

Hold fast... to what else? ***Our boasting in our hope.*** Because of what Christ has done, once for all, our hope is secure. But this is telling us to hold fast to our ***boasting in our hope.*** Why do people boast? Because they are proud. This means to be proud of the gospel. To feel the goodness of the good news. This is to be proud of Jesus and boast in him (1 Cor 1:30, Gal 6:4). To boast in our eternal hope in Christ. How long? Hold fast firm *to the end.* To the end of your life.

Application (Three people here today):

1. If life seems good right now, consider Jesus. Look to him more than your temporary blessings. Be careful that Jesus doesn't stay in the background. But rather, see every true blessing as coming from his hand so that you look through them and above them to Him so that he always remains in the foreground. Spurgeon said: *"Take care that you rejoice in the Lord when you have other things to rejoice in. When he loads your table with good things, and your cup is overflowing with blessings, rejoice in him more than in them."*

2. If the path before you looks hard and dark, consider Jesus. If you feel like you are under a thousand pound boulder or going through the toughest trial you could ever imagine, consider Jesus. Look to the One who was made like you in every way and therefore is sympathetic toward you. He has felt the same things you feel. He is tender and ready to help you in every situation. Don't run to another helper. Come to the One who made you, became like you, knows you inside and out, and can give you the best help on earth. The consistent testimony of Christians over the centuries is that the Lord was never more near than when walking in the valley of deep darkness and suffering. Consider Jesus.

3. If you are caught in sin, consider Jesus. Anger, bitterness, jealousies, unforgiveness, sexual sin, worldiness, greed, covetousness, hatred, gossip, slander, and so forth. Consider Jesus. Don't bury your sin under a pile of self-justifying bricks. Don't you know that he is moved with tender compassion toward you - he is not repulsed by you. Oh, he hates the sin, and wants to utterly destroy it because it is destroying you! He wants to free you from it. Don't run from him in shame. Run to him, confident in his once for all sacrifice for sin and his present sympathy toward you.

Consider Jesus. We need help with this. Let's ask for the Holy Spirit's help. And let's help each other - to look and look again at Jesus. It matters. For a lively and strong faith. For courage. And, most importantly, for eternal life. Let's pray.